

A NEW NAME FOR AN AFRICAN RAT.

The name *Rattus centralis* now in use for a rat described from Rhino Camp, Lado Enclave, is preoccupied by *Mus auricomis centralis* Schwann, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1906, vol. 1, p. 107, proposed for a South African form now standing as *Rattus namaquensis centralis*. The Lado rat (*Epimys kaiseri centralis* Heller, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 63, No. 7, p. 10, June 24, 1914) must have a new name and may be known as *Rattus helleri*.
—N. Hollister.

OLOR COLUMBIANUS ON THE POTOMAC RIVER.

For many years *Olor columbianus* has not been at all common in winter on the Potomac River, but during the winters of 1915–1916 and 1916–1917 it resorted in considerable numbers to this river near Widewater, Virginia, some 40 miles below the city of Washington. It appeared first on January 17, 1916, and remained in varying numbers, usually from 200 to 300, until April 1, 1916. With the swans were numbers of Scaup Ducks (*Marila marila* and *Marila affinis*), Mallards (*Anas platyrhyncha*), Canvas-backs (*Aristonetta valisineria*), and some Red-heads (*Nyroca americana*). During the following winter the swans came on November 14, 1916, and stayed until March 29, 1917. During this period the usual number present was about 200, and accompanying them were mallards, canvas-backs, and red-heads in considerable numbers.

For much of the above data the writer is indebted to Miss Pickett Waller, of Widewater, Virginia.
—Harry C. Oberholser.

SQUATAROLA SQUATAROLA CYNOSURAE NEAR WASHINGTON, D. C.

The only published record of the occurrence of the black-bellied plover in the District of Columbia is that of a single one seen by the writer on October 24, 1916, near the mouth of the Anacostia River, D. C. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXX, July 27, 1917, p. 122). There are, however, in the Biological Survey collection three birds of this species in first autumn plumage collected on the Anacostia River, D. C., on September 26, 1914. These birds were found in the Washington Center Market by Dr. T. S. Palmer, and were overlooked when I made the statement that my record for October 24, 1916, was the first for the District of Columbia. These specimens now substantiate the record of the bird seen last year on the Anacostia River, and it seems therefore worth while to place them on permanent record.
—Harry C. Oberholser.

HIEROFALCO RUSTICOLUS CANDICANS IN NORTH DAKOTA.

Through the courtesy of Mr. H. V. Williams, of Grafton, North Dakota, I am able to record the capture of a specimen of *Hierofalco rusticolus candicans* (Gmelin) in North Dakota. This bird was taken at Grafton, North Dakota, on October 7, 1908, and is preserved in Mr. Williams' collection. It is in the phase formerly known as *Hierofalco rusticolus gyrfalco*. It forms apparently the first record of the species for North Dakota.
—Harry C. Oberholser.